1.12. Phonemes

Desano has eighteen phonemes: twelve consonants and six vowels. These are presented in (38)–(39).[3]

(38) Consonant phonemes

	labial	alveolar	velar	glottal
stop				
voiceless	p	t	k	ʔ
voiced	b	d	g	
fricative		s		h
flap		r		
semivowel	w	y		

(39) Vowel phonemes

	front	mid	back
high	i	ɨ	u
low	e	ɑ	o

The phonemes are represented in this volume as they appear in the tables in (38)–(39). Nasalization, which is a suprasegmental feature of the morpheme (see §1.13) is indicated with a tilde above the vowels affected. Stress is also phonemic but is not written in this paper, except where it is needed to distinguish meaning.

For easier reading of examples, morphemes are represented in their underlying form. Under certain conditions, there is nasal spreading or

[3] For further information on studies of Desano phonology see Kaye (1970, 1971), Miller (1976).

Miller, Marion. 1999. Desano Grammar. Studies in the Languages of Columbia Vol. 6. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics.